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"Ensuring a safe and secure homeland for all North Dakotans"

To: DES Advisory Committee

From: Greg Wilz

Topic: Department of Emergency Services Advisory Committee (DESAC) Meeting Executive Summary – March 3, 2009

Date: March 9, 2009

Adjutant General Remarks – MG Sprynczynatyk

After introductions, General Sprynczynatyk moved the meeting forward by asking Greg to provide the DES update.

Division of Homeland Security Update – Greg Wilz

Operations and Planning

Operational Items

Winter Storms

- The state has been impacted by at least eight major snow storms, many of which have broken daily, weekly and monthly records. On January 22, Governor Hoeven issued a State Winter Storm Emergency Declaration implementing a program in which state funds are available to assist the most critically impacted local and tribal jurisdictions with snow removal, public health, and safety threats.

The state program is intended to provide 75 percent of snow removal costs over 200 percent of the five year average for three months in jurisdictions that have received 400 percent more snowfall than normal. Thus far, 15 counties and one tribe have qualified.

Originally \$1.5 million was placed in the deficiency appropriation and SB 2393 appropriates and additional \$1 million to the funding package. The bill passed the Senate and has moved to the House.

- On February 19, Governor Hoeven requested a Presidential Declaration as a result of heavy snow, extreme cold temperatures, high winds, and blizzard conditions.

Flood Preparedness

- State agencies assigned responsibility in the Flood Incident Annex of the State Emergency Operations Plan met on February 5 to review the annex, discuss potential

for spring flooding, provide information regarding response to the 1997 flood, and review the Flood Response Alert Notification which was issued February 6. The alert notification summarizes state agency responsibilities for flood preparedness and response.

- FEMA conducted a series of informational sessions about flood insurance throughout the state February 17-19. These meetings provided the public an opportunity to ask questions regarding the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Staff updated the 2009 Flood Risk Assessment based upon the flood outlook issued by the Bismarck and Grand Forks National Weather Service offices on February 27. Staff will be coordinating with emergency managers to more precisely identify potential impacts and possible resource needs. Current data predicts a 90 percent chance of major flooding in the Red River and Devils Lake Basins with lesser chances for several other areas across the state. The next flood outlook is scheduled for March 13.
- Members from NDDDES, FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) have been coordinating a series of flood preparedness meetings that take place throughout the state March 3-5. FEMA will conduct flood insurance training for agents/lenders, USACE will conduct meetings for local officials about flood preparedness, and in addition, public meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss mitigation and personal preparedness measures.

WebEOC/EmerGeo

- WebEOC refresher training will be provided the first week in March to prepare state agencies for potential spring flooding.
- Staff is modifying EmerGeo and will be training core members within the agency to prepare maps pertaining to spring flooding.
- Aeronautics Commission personnel received WebEOC training.

Exercises/Conferences/Training

- Staff participated in derailment training presented by Amtrak and BNSF officials in Tioga on January 30 and an Amtrak derailment exercise in Williston on January 31.
- Staff participated in a flood exercise with the National Guard on February 24-26.

Planning

- In compliance with the Homeland Security grant guidelines, all jurisdictions' evacuation and sheltering plans have been approved. To date, 55 of 59 jurisdictional mass care plans have received approval.
- Agencies assigned responsibility in the Law Enforcement Multi-Agency Coordination Center Capability Annex finalized its content during a planning meeting in December.
- Planners are drafting the Animal/Avian Health Incident, Disaster Recovery Capabilities, Shelter/Evacuation/Mass Care Capabilities, and Transportation Capabilities Annexes.

Critical Infrastructure

- The Department of Homeland Security issued a newly updated classified laptop for use in the N.D. Division of Homeland Security Secure Room located in the State Emergency Operations Center.
- One SECRET clearance nomination package was reviewed and sent for a member of the Governor's staff.
- Ten North Dakota Anti-Terrorism Summaries have been issued since the last DESAC meeting.
- The Critical Infrastructure Program manager has begun the process of collecting infrastructure/key resource data for the upcoming FY09 DHS Data Call program for Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities

Hazardous Chemicals Preparedness and Response Program

- The Haz-Chem Preparedness Response Section is currently BETA testing new hazardous chemical Tier II reporting software. The testing will continue for several months and should be available for the Reporting Year 2009/Calendar Year 2010 Tier II filing season. It will provide the ability to quickly query owner/operators, storage facilities, and threshold amounts of individual chemicals which will significantly help emergency managers and response personnel.

Disaster Recovery

Public Assistance Program (PA)

- Staff members are processing payment requests for the state's first snow removal program. The counties of Burke, Burleigh, Divide, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Richland, Sheridan, Stutsman, Ward, Wells, Williams, and the Three Affiliated Tribes have been declared and meet the qualification guidelines for reimbursement.
- Northwood School construction is scheduled for completion during May 2009.
- Monitoring the 15 percent local/tribal government contribution for the PA disaster program continues. De-obligations in six counties ranged from \$1,400 to \$52,000. Most cities have very few project management findings. Burleigh County had no project management findings.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM-C)

- Ten planning applications totaling \$599,000 were submitted by Bottineau, Eddy, Foster, Hettinger, Renville, Sargent, Steele, Stutsman, Traill and Wells Counties.
- Two rural electric cooperatives submitted project applications totaling \$573,550 to bury electrical lines.

Other Activities

- A State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be scheduled in March. Its purpose is to gather information about the impacts to Ramsey, Benson, Nelson, and Towner Counties if Devils Lake rises to elevations of 1450 ft. and above.

- Ongoing support is provided to the Devils Lake Roads Acting as Dams Task Force.

Division of State Radio Update – Greg Wilz

Greg informed members the CAD contract will be signed March 4 and work will begin in 30 days. He indicated the new Bullberry mapping system has been working well and counties are continuing to update rogue addresses. He indicated the next 22 State PSAP Counties' meeting will be held March 25 at 8:15 a.m. in the Comfort Inn. Greg told members State Radio is fully staffed and has experienced no turnover in the last four months.

He said Mike Lynk, the new State Radio Director, was en route to a conference and could not attend the DESAC meeting. Greg said the management transition has been smooth and that Mike has opened new levels of communication among stakeholders especially those in law enforcement.

2008 Homeland Security Grant Update – Wayne Baron

Wayne delivered a PowerPoint presentation that provided a review of open grants and the FY 2009 Homeland Security Program. The attachment entitled "DESAC – HLS Allocation Series 03-03-09" details the information.

Discussion Information:

- Approximately \$1.2 million in FY 07 and 08 funding has been allocated to the four quadrants. Last week, the four advisory groups met to prioritize application requests. The Policy Network will meet to finalized funding distribution.
- Two hundred thirty-one applications were received amounting to nearly \$4 million for remaining FY 06 funding. Due to the large number of reimbursement requests that arrived just prior to the submission deadline, the amount available equates to \$231,824.

Applicants will be informed of grant statuses on March 9.

- Fifty percent the federal FY 2009 EMPG allocation is contingent upon approval of the work plan; feedback from the federal Department of Homeland Security concerning work plan approval will occur no later than September 30, 2009.

There has been small increase in the 2009 EMPG allocation to jurisdictions.

- Division personnel will allow across the board flexibility in meeting funding mandates and accomplishing prescribed outcomes. Technical assistance will be provided to jurisdictions in this regard.

There will be no direct allocation directed toward the radiological program.

FY 09 guidelines mandate 25 percent of funding must be allocated to law enforcement.

- There is FY 08 money remaining to fund local law enforcement participation in the Fusion Center but there has been difficulty in generating interest at the local level.

Border Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will most likely provide staff located in the Fusion Center; each agency will financially support its representative.

- In order to accommodate local jurisdictions with upcoming radio programming costs associated with the State Frequency Plan, counties were requested to submit the total number of radios to be programmed. The information directly influences the dollar amount requested in the investment; however, 22 counties have not provided the data. These entities jeopardize federal funding designated for the investment and may have to rely on local budgets to fund all programming costs.

The investment will require a 10 percent monetary or in-kind match from local jurisdictions. Staff will assist jurisdictions in identifying in-kind matches that qualify. As a member of the State Emergency Services Communication Coordinating Committee, Jerry Bergquist, commented that the expenditures of 911 funds to meet the 10 percent match requirement would be an agenda topic at the March 26 meeting.

Legislative Initiatives – Greg Wilz

General Sprynczynatyk said from an agency perspective, the legislative process has been successful. He indicated several of the bills emanating from the Public Safety Committee had failed; however, portions of certain bills had been resurrected in other legislation.

Greg presented an overview of information contained in the weekly bill tracking spreadsheet sent to members. The document labeled, "2009 Legislative Tracker" is attached. All bill versions may be accessed by clicking the individual bill numbers.

The following provides highlights from Greg's review.

- HB 1023 OMB Deficiency - It includes \$1.4 million for the snow removal program (\$100,000 has already been received from the State Emergency Commission).
- HB1050 Expanded State Radio System – The measure failed the House; an amendment to appropriate funding for additional radio towers was included in HB 1016 Office of the Adjutant General Appropriation but the amendment failed to pass.
- HB1052 Computer Aided Dispatch System – It failed but additional dollars have been built into HB 1016.
- HB1053 Regional Emergency Management – It passed but the appropriation was deleted. There is an attempt to add an appropriation in the Senate version.
- HB1054 Next Generation 911 Study – There is an amendment to add an appropriation for this study into HB 1016.
- HB1073 Volunteer Health Registry – Responsibility originally placed in the purview of DES was appropriately moved to the Department of Health.
- SB 2393 Snow Removal Appropriation – The bill appropriates \$1 million for the snow removal program.

Next Meeting

General Sprynczynatyk set the next meeting for mid May but pointed out spring flooding may impact scheduling.

